

# BRANSCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

Year Ending: 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022

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MINUTES OF THE BRANSCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held in Branoc Hall, Branscombe on **THURSDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2021 at 19.30hrs**

PRESENT: Cllr Fastnedge (Chair), Pegler (Deputy Chair), Cox, Evans, Pellatt, Pike and Powell. Rob Skinner (National Trust).

MEMBERS OF PUBLIC: None

PRESS: None

CLERKS IN ATTENDANCE: Nicky Langley and Adrienne Long

- 1) APOLOGIES: Cllr Hartnell (DCC), Cllr Pook (EDDC) and Cllr White.
- 2) PUBLIC SPEAKING: None.
- 3) MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING  
The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> August 2021 (previously circulated), were approved by Council, and signed by the Chair as a true record.  
  
The Chair suggested that, to ensure a smooth handover between the outgoing and incoming clerks, Nicky Langley should work alongside Adrienne Long until the end of September at her normal rate of remuneration. Cllr Cox proposed; seconded by Cllr Powell and all in favour.
- 4) DECLARATION OF INTEREST: None.
- 5) ORGANISATIONS' REPORTS
  - a) Devon and Cornwall Police  
The monthly report from the Neighbourhood Beat Officer had been previously circulated and its contents noted.

b) National Trust

Rob Skinner reported on 3 items:

i) Ash dieback

The Trust had surveyed the situation of ash dieback and found that some 650 trees will have to be felled in East Devon. The ash dieback is particularly acute in woodland belts: in Branscombe the affected area is West Cliff on the South-West Coastal Path. Any trees near to, or on roads and paths, will be dealt with quickly by the Trust.

ii) The South-West Coastal Path

The Trust has plans to remove some stiles and steps in the West Cliff area and will create a zig-zag path, to make the path more accessible.

iii) Interpretation boards

The Trust is working in partnership with a number of agencies to replace the interpretation boards in the village (the Napoli board; the Jurassic board and the board by the ford). It was agreed that the Council would like to be kept informed of developments on the replacement of the boards. (*Action Clerk*).

6) REPRESENTATIVES' REPORTS

a) Cllr Hartnell, DCC

Cllr Hartnell's report (July/August 2021) had been circulated previously and its contents noted.

b) Cllr Pook, EDDC

No report provided.

c) Village Hall

It was noted that there were still issues with the collection of recycling at the hall and that there had been some difficulties with the organisation of the Harvest Fair due to take place in the hall on 18<sup>th</sup> September.

7) MATTERS ARISING:

a) New bins near Village Hall

The Clerk (NL) reported that she had contacted EDDC for a price for a larger bin at the bus stop but had not yet received any response. It was agreed that this should be followed up again. (*Action Clerk*)

- b) Recycling and food waste collections  
It was reported that there are still issues with the waste collections in the parish, but it was acknowledged that this is a nationwide problem due to the current shortage of HGV drivers. It was also very clear that there are currently inexperienced or different drivers on the Branscombe run who are not familiar with all the routes within the parish and who are therefore missing some collections.

Following discussion on the information on the EDDC recycling web site and app and the frustrations experienced with the collections, it was agreed the Clerk should send a letter to EDDC (cc Cllr Pook) highlighting the difficulties with the information currently being provided by EDDC. The Clerk would ask Cllr Pook who the letter should be sent to in the Waste Collection Team. *(Action Clerk)*

- c) Coronation Gardens – condition of stairs, garden, and bench  
Cllr Powell reported that the condition of the bench is fine, but that it would be best to either replace, or remove the handrail. It was agreed that David Miller should be asked to provide a quote for the work to be done. *(Action Cllr Powell)*

- d) Bus stop benches  
Cllr Pike reported that the bus stop bench (near the Masons Arms) is rotten, whilst that near the Fountain Head is useable, but could do with replacement. Cllr Pike will liaise with the Clerk on obtaining a quote for either a plastic or wooden replacement. *(Action Cllr Pike and Clerk)*

- e) Funding of community projects  
The Clerk had placed a brief note in the September Parish Magazine indicating that the Council was considering establishing a grant funding scheme for village organisations.

It was agreed that the Council needed to draw up more detailed information on the scheme including the criteria for applications and what funds would be available. Cllr Pellatt will provide some proposals for discussion at the next meeting. *(Action Cllr Pellatt)*

## 8) PLANNING

- a) Parish Planning Update  
The Parish Planning Update was noted.
- b) Applications, Appeals & Enforcement Actions  
i 21/2047/TEL Berry Barton Farm Berry Hill Branscombe - Installation of 20m high lattice mast supporting 2no. sector antennas and 1no. 1.2m diameter satellite dish, 2no. ground-based equipment cabinets within compound surrounded by 1.2m stock-proof fence.

Cllr Pegler provided a summary of the application. It was noted that this application was for a replacement site for the mast to that originally proposed and was the same location that the Council had also originally suggested in its consideration of the application. The Chairman proposed that the Council support the application; Cllr Cox seconded; and all in favour.

- c) 08/2538/FUL - Request for clarification of planning condition  
The Chairman reported that he had written to EDDC to seek clarification of the terminology “Notwithstanding the forgoing” which was used in the planning application 08/2438/FUL for the airfield. EDDC had responded stating that they are unable to respond to enquiries on planning terminology or explanations and the Chairman therefore wished to ask the Council if they would be willing to take this matter up and seek further clarification. Cllr Powell proposed that this matter should be dealt with by the Council; Cllr Pellatt seconded: and all in favour.

## 9) HIGHWAYS/FOOTPATHS

- a) Culvert by Village Hall  
It was reported that a grate had still not been fitted and that this was now becoming a safety issue with the need also for a second grate to be installed on the pipe.  
  
It was agreed that, as soon as the Council had sight of the relevant Highways minutes, the matter could then be raised with Cllr Hartnell.
- b) DCC “Doing What Matters” project  
The progress on the ‘Doing What Matters’ improvement projects was noted in Cllr Hartnell’s report (previously circulated).
- c) Road Wardens – installation of road signs  
Cllr Lambert reported that one sign has been erected and that this has been appreciated. The Clerk reported that the remaining signs are with Cllr White.
- d) Weston Hamlet and Branscombe village signs  
Cllr Evans reported that the Weston signs had been installed and had been well received by Weston residents. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to thank DCC (Eastern Highway Neighbourhood Team) for the installation of the Weston signs and enquire when the Branscombe village signs will be completed. (*Action Clerk*).
- e) Branscombe signs on main village roads  
Update awaited from Cllr Hartnell.

10) GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE (previously circulated)

- a) Grants available for developing neighbourhood plan for Branscombe  
Cllr Evans reported that the Council had discussed the development of a neighbourhood plan for the parish previously and had reached the conclusion that it was too small a council and parish to justify the time and expense. It was agreed that it would be useful for the Chairman to have an initial discussion with Paul Weston (Community Consultant) to ascertain the current position on neighbourhood plans and whether it might now be timely for the Council to consider developing its own plan.  
*(Action Chairman)*
- b) EDDC public toilet review online consultation  
Noted.

11) FINANCE

- a) Finance Update 2020/21:

Total receipts for year	£ 4,569.18
Total payments for year	£ 3,454.47
Difference	£ 1,114.71
Current balance	£ 23,649.80

The Finance Update provided by the Clerk was noted.

- b) Payments to consider  
There were no payments to be considered.
- c) BACS remittance received for precept £3,925.00  
The Clerk reported that the BACS remittance for the precept of £3,925.00 had been received, but she was awaiting the statements from NatWest Bank.

12) MATTERS FOR FUTURE AGENDA WITH PERMISSION FROM THE CHAIR

- a) Graham's Bench  
Cllr Powell raised the matter of 'Graham's bench' which is rarely used and the area around the bench is very overgrown. The area and Graham's bench will be discussed at the next meeting and all Councillors are asked to look at the site before the meeting. *(Action All Councillors)*

- b) Discharge from Septic Tank  
Cllr Lambert reported that there had been a series of unpleasant discharges from his neighbour's septic tank, which flows into the stream and into his garden. This problem had been ongoing for over a month. On the advice of Cllr Pook, he had contacted the Environmental Health Officer at EDDC who had advised contacting the Environment Agency. Cllr Lambert had also discussed the problem with WCI Wastewater Engineers who are trying to assist with the matter. He had also copied Cllr Pook's advice email to his neighbours but had not received any response. Cllr Lambert asked if the Parish Council would take up this matter at the next meeting.

As this matter is a public health issue Cllr Lambert was advised to report it immediately to the Environmental Agency, as the Parish Council would not be able to achieve anything more at this stage.

- c) Complaint Received re Premier Park  
Cllr Cox asked if he could raise the matter of the payment demands on Christine Loxton with Premier Park, as the car park may not be aware of the complaint. It was also noted that the signage at the car park is not as clear as it could be, and that Cllr Cox will inform the car park of the complaint received from Christine Luxton.
- d) Tankard for John Bass  
The Clerk reported that she now had the tankard for John Bass and that this will be presented to him at the Harvest Fair on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> September. Cllr Pegler will present the gift in the absence of the Chairman.

13) DATE OF NEXT MEETING:  
Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2021.

The meeting closed at 21:02 hours.

Signed..... Date .....